

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the School on Wednesday 30 November 2011 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chairman), Howard Hirst, Jo Pask, David Turner, Scilla Turner and Anna Warren-Thomas
In Attendance: Mrs P M Lamb (Parish Clerk)
Also Present: PCSO H Partington, Ms E Clark and Mr R Carpenter

ACTION

11/116 Apologies for absence: Cllr D Burr, Co Cllr R Kemp and Dist Cllr J Long

11/117 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the 2 November 2011 were approved and signed.

11/118 Matters Arising: None

11/119 Declarations of interest: Cllr Warren-Thomas in respect of Item 9(d) Banhams Yard - a resident of that area (9d).

11/120 Public Forum: Erica Clark and Ralph Carpenter reported on the hedgerow survey carried out by volunteers in the village between 2007-11 and had been undertaken on behalf of the Suffolk Biological Records Centre. Analysis of the 238 hedges recorded showed that the village has high counts of species rich hedges (8 or more species). Erica also outlined possible future surveys e.g. linking within history of the area, looking at other features within the parish, such as ponds, etc.

It was hoped that the Parish Council could obtain permission from SCC to enable the distribution of copies of the hedgerow map. Cllr Browning urged that, whilst it might be useful to get the identified gaps in the hedgerows repaired, he recommended the matter be broached with the appropriate farmers to assess their reactions.

Clerk

On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Browning extended thanks to all the volunteers for their time and sterling efforts in this regard.

11/121 Police report: PCSO Partington delivered the Police report for the period 30 October to 10 November 2011. Only one crime had been recorded; that of a motorist driving while under the influence of alcohol. Cllr Hirst advised that his car had been scratched with a sharp object whilst parked near the butchers; a formal report is to be made. A reminder was issued re ensuring Christmas gifts etc are kept out of sight.

11/122 County Councillor's Report: No report had been issued since the last meeting.

11/123 District Councillor's Report: No report was available, but Dist Cllr Long advised that joint working was continuing – with some appointments made recently in this regard.

11/124 Finance & Administration:

- (a) Payments: The following payments were approved:
SALC: Cemetery Management Seminar Attendance: £288.00
Mrs P M Lamb: Salary and expenses – Oct-Dec 2011: £679.45
The above payments were approved.

Clerk

- (b) Budget/Precept 2012/13: Expenditure and Income schedules were issued for this financial year. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would keep its precept to £9,000. A request for this sum is to be submitted to BDC. Budgets were agreed as follows: Clerk
- Salaries/Travel to remain as last year at £3k
Office Admin: This is increased by £200 to £460 in view of office equipment required for Parish Clerk and Cemetery documents.
Insurance: As this financial year at £350.
Establishment: Ditto - £800.
Elections: Ditto - £100.
Training: An increase on last year to £400 in view of new Councillors' training needs.
Advertising/Website: As this financial year at £50.
Grass Maintenance: Ditto - £3,000
Trees: Ditto - £500
Cemetery Extension: £200
Traffic: Nil
Grants: £900
TOTAL: £9,760 (the shortfall to be met from reserves)
(It was noted SALC's subscription would be increased by approx £10, and bin emptying would increase to £29.90 x 2 from 1.1.12.)
Grass maintenance will be reviewed on the 3rd anniversary of the contract in November 2012. There will be the regular annual review at the end of this year. Clerk
- An article is to be placed in 'Contact' early in the new year. CB
- (c) Grants: Applications have been received from the Boxted & Hartest Institute and the Hartest & District Bowls Club; these will be considered in January along with any other applications received by end December. Applications will be emailed to all Councillors. It was also noted that BDC has capital funding available in this financial year; Cllr Browning asked Members to consider possible applications for such funding and to meet to discuss possible projects. Clerk
- (d) Banhams Yard: Cllr Warren-Thomas confirmed that the affordable housing residence here belongs to Orwell Housing. All
- (e) UKPN Undergrounding – Church Gate, The Green: The Parish Council had received a recent offer of a lump sum of £250 in this regard together with £9.54 p.a. (compensation and rental). Members agreed to accept this and the related wayleave agreement was approved and signed. Clerk

11/125 Planning:

- (a) Decisions received: Permissions granted:
B/11/00859/FHA/AS: Elm Barn, Melford Road
Erection of garden store and car port
B/11/01338/TCA: The Hatch, Pilgrims Lane:
Pollard 1 no multi-stemmed Ash tree to a minimum height of 5m including retention, where possible, of side shoots for re-growth.
Reduce 1 no Oak tree back to previous pruning points.
B/11/01329/TCA: Oakhill House, Somerton Road:
Fell 1 no Willow Tree (W1) and 1 no Poplar Tree (P1) to ground level (W1 was recently reduced as per application B/11/00797)
B/11/01448/TCA: Westcroft, Somerton Road: Fell 1 no Ornamental Plum and 2 no Leylandii
B/11/01155/FHA/JD & B/11/01158/LBC/JD: Appleby Cottage, The Green: Single story rear extension, replacement of rear external door and re-roof front porch.
- (b) Withdrawn applications: None
- (c) New planning applications: None

- (d) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Applications B/11/01448/TCA Tree Works at Westcroft, Somerton Road: Fell 1 No Lime tree T1, 1 no Ornamental Plum (T2) and 2 no Leylandii (T3 and T4)
Members agreed to support this application Clerk
- (e) Appeals: APP/D3505/A/11/2162608/NWF: Neat House land East of Old Bakery, The Green: Additional comments had been conveyed to the Planning Inspectorate. Enquiries would be made as to when/if a site meeting is to be held. Clerk
- (f) Other Planning Matters:
BDC Core Strategy: Cllr D Turner had attended a workshop re this. It is intended to have 2,500 new homes and 2,700 jobs created by 2031. These documents can be viewed on line together with the details of the other workshops held.
Cllr Turner felt there was no need for the PC to make any comments in this regard.

11/126 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

- (a) War Memorial: Two quotations had been received, a third is awaited. After discussion, it was agreed that the Councillors would endeavour to clean the memorial with an appropriate stone cleaner after consultation with Mr P Tebbitt, who previously undertook this work. It is hoped to complete this work by end March 2012. Cllr D Turner is to liaise with Mr M Ashman with regard to painting the chains around the memorial. ALL Clerk
- (b) Cemetery - Notice board: No suitable ready-made alternatives had been found; Cllr Pask offered to discuss a possible custom made one with Mr P Warwicker. DT
- (c) Cemetery - Adjoining Land: No further information available. JP
- (c) Undergrounding of Cables: Following the recent site meeting, UKPN's assurance that all areas disturbed by these works would be properly reinstated, and an exchange of emails, the Parish Council agreed to accept their recent offer of £250, by way of compensation. Members authorised Cllr Browning to sign the wayleave document previously received. Clerk
- (d) Trees: Members are to meet in April to check the condition of the trees on the Green, and in the Cemetery, in order to produce a rolling programme of works. JP
- (e) Cllr S Turner gave a summary of the Cemetery Management course recently attended. Cllrs Turner, Pask and the Parish Clerk are to meet in January to consider the implication in this regard. JP/ST/ Clerk

11/127 Highways and Footpaths

- (a) Traffic Management: At the meeting held with SCC Highways on Thursday 10 November, the matters of a speed indicator sign, a request for further speed monitoring (an appropriate times and locations), and an extension of the current 30mph restricted areas were discussed. The cost of a sign had been quoted as approx £8k.
Only one of the three sites requested for extension of the 30mph zone was thought likely to be favourably regarded. It was also requested that the yellow hatched area in front of the school be extended. This had been an informal meeting with only one officer and, to date, no formal response has been received from SCC; the Parish Clerk will follow up this. Clerk
- Parking outside School: Following the Council's recent request, the Police are again monitoring this problem. HP

11/128 Correspondence:

BDC: Details of recent Joint Management Team appointments as BDC and MSDC continue to integrate staffing structures.

SALC: Survey re impact of the recent bus service cuts. A regular bus service user is to be asked to provide comments for presentation to the Parish Council in January prior to completion and submission of the survey.

JP

11/129 Matters of report: Nothing

11/130 Matters for consideration at the next meeting: Queen's Diamond Jubilee – 4 June.

11/131 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11 January at 7 p.m. in the Institute. The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 January 2012